

KURUSU SAYS JAPAN IS AMERICA'S FRIEND

No Cause for Hostile Suspicion, Consul Declares at Banquet.

PRESS SHOULD HELP Nations Must Draw Sword Only to Save People, His Belief.

The friendship and the diplomatic relationships existing between the United States and Japan was the chief topic of the address of Consul Saburo Kurusu of Chicago, the official representative of Japan at the "Made-in-Japan" Banquet Friday night. Consul Kurusu's address follows:

Once in old feudal days of Japan, two Samurai happened to be fellow passengers on a ferry boat which was going across a lake. One of them was young and haughty and the other was old and modest. It was a beautiful spring day, pleasantly fair and warm, and the boat was smoothly gliding on the surface of the water, which was as calm as a mirror. The trip became somewhat tiresome, and the passengers started to break its monotony by chatting about odds and ends.

Our young warrior was soon drawn into the talking circle and immediately began to boast of many wonderful merits he accomplished on the various battlefields, with haughty air and military gesticulations. The old Samurai was quietly listening to it; but, being gradually overcome by the lazy spring breeze, he fell into a peaceful doze.

Speaker Tells of Unusual "Duel." Our quixotic hero could hardly stand that his brilliant talk was received in such a manner. He took it for an unwarranted insult upon a Samurai's honor and indignantly challenged the offender to a duel. The old warrior was embarrassed, and exhausted every means of apology without any avail. Finally, when he thought it useless to apologize any further, he gently told his young friend:

"Well, Sir, so long as you insist, I think it my duty to accept. But, if we fight on this boat, it will be a very dangerous nuisance to the other passengers. Let me suggest that we go and fight on the island there."

The younger one agreed and the boat started thither. The challenger was so excited and impatient that when the boat drew near to the shore of the island, he immediately jumped over and made himself ready for the fight. The old gentleman who was sitting without any sign of emotion, stood up very gracefully, but instead of going to the shore he took the boatman's oar and quickly began to row the boat away from the island.

"You, coward!" the young Samurai exclaimed. "Come back and fight like a man. What are you carrying your swords for?"

"Swords to Save People." The old warrior looked back at him with a smile and said:

"My friend, I do not draw my sword until it is absolutely necessary. My swords are not to kill people, but to save them."

Democracy is a world-wide tendency. Every state affair, whether national or international, now finds the most powerful hand of guidance in public opinion. You, journalists, who handle the most effective organ of public information, are in a commanding position in leading and directing the public opinion. By constant exercise of your influence, you can transform public sentiment toward any country from the utmost friendliness to the bitterest enmity. You can easily bring the people's mind to such a state that the slightest international controversy will bring about the most delicate situation. My friends, the pen is mightier than the sword. Let me most sincerely hope that the pen of American and Japanese journalists be always used not to kill people, but to save them.

"America Is Our Real Friend." The Japanese-American question is a popular current topic in American newspapers. So much criticism has appeared in various journals about what Japan has done and what Japan is going to do. I am not so narrow-minded as to think that the criticism means unfriendliness. Frank criticism can only be expected from a real friend. Any nation which turns a deaf ear to fair criticism can never be great. We are always ready and willing to hear your criticism of Japan, because we know that America is our real friend and because we want to make Japan greater. The only thing we expect of American journalists is that their opinion of Japan be always based, not upon

sensational rumors, but upon solid facts and the truth. Mr. George Kennan said in his recent article in the Outlook that more than twenty wild stories have been published in some journals since 1907 about Japan's attitude toward the United States. But "bugaboo" is "bugaboo" after all. The intelligence of the two nations is too high to be affected by such irresponsible publicity. The foundation of our friendship is too deep to be dangerously shaken by such sensational nonsense.

Three Japanese-American Issues. So far as my knowledge goes, there are only three issues in the Japanese-American relation which should be seriously considered by intelligent people of the two countries. The first is the question of Japanese immigration to this country. The second is the question of the alleged ambition of Japan toward the Philippines, and the third is the question of Japan's policy toward China.

The question of Japanese immigration, so far as its restriction is concerned, was satisfactorily settled by the gentleman's agreement of 1908. In the eight years following the enforcement of this agreement, only 1,862 Japanese residents entered this country by immigration, and these include laborers and non-laborers. The figure shows how effective the measure is, and how faithfully we are sticking to our promise.

The restriction of our immigration was thus accomplished, and we are now simply asking that our residents in this country be equally treated with other aliens. We are fully aware, however, that equal recognition can only be founded upon the friendly feeling of American people and not upon enmity and hatred which inevitably precede a military hostility. You may be assured that Japan will not go into war over this issue. But I want to remind you that your constant discrimination against our residents make them

more self-conscious. If you display your national characteristic of justice and fair play and stretch your brotherly hand to our residents, they will not only make you good comrades, but will make an unshakable cornerstone of a permanent peace and friendship between Japan and the United States.

Says Japan Doesn't Want Islands. Certain anxiety seems to be always entertained by American people that Japan is coveting the Philippine Islands, and is waiting to materialize her ambition by military power. But, I beg to ask you, would it pay? Japan is a commercial nation. Her foreign trade which was only thirteen million dollars (in American money) in 1868 increased to six hundred million dollars in 1915. Her merchant marine which was less than twenty thousand tons in 1868 has now increased, with steamers only, to one million six hundred thousand tons. No matter what your prejudice may be, you must give some credit to our business sense.

If Japan goes into war with the United States to get the Philippines, she must lose at least one-third of her export trade, she must contract enmity with all other powers which have their possessions in Asia and on the Pacific, and she must stake her preponderant position in the Far East which has been won by the tremendous sacrifice of her national treasure and human lives. If you earnestly think that Japan, with her business sense, will run all these risks to win the Philippines, you are certainly overvaluing your insular possession on the other side of the Pacific.

Japan Wants Open Door in China.

The last and the most serious question is that of the Japanese-American relation in China. In discussion of the Chinese question, some people seem to forget that there are other nations on earth besides China, Japan and the United States. The inter-

ests of European powers in China are extensive and complicated. Japan has her special interest in some parts of the land, but many of the European powers have larger and more prosperous parts under their spheres of influence. If Japan should attempt to close the door in a part of China, her economic gain in that district will be more than offset by her loss in other larger parts of the continent, which will subsequently be caused by the antagonism of Chinese people and by the combined opposition of other powers. Japan is not foolish enough to kill a hen which lays golden eggs. Furthermore, if an economic partition should once be introduced, it will eventually lead to a political disintegration of China. Japan can hardly permit such a state of affairs for the sake of her own national security. Our self interest dictates us to respect and maintain the principle of the open door and territorial integrity of China by every means.

There exists a group of people who look upon America alone as the great savior of China, but it is not America, it is Japan, it is not any country in Europe which can ultimately save China. It must be the Chinese themselves. I wish most sincerely and earnestly that our great neighbor will soon become strong enough to protect her own rights and interests by her own power, and relieve us of the peculiar position which is open to constant misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

We seek in China only economic development, the most natural course in view of our racial and geographical proximity. Japan is a small country with a large population. One

square mile of land in Japan supports more than 350 people. Our density of population surpasses that of the State of New Jersey by twenty for each square mile. The only way which is now left for us to improve our economic status under such circumstances is to make Japan a commercial and industrial nation. It is our most vital question. It is the fundamental motive for our economic activity in China.

Economic Co-operation Coming. The economic rivalry between Japan and the United States in China has become a popular subject of discussion in international politics, and there has been some sensational remarks made about its eventualities. But, under a far-sighted leadership of prominent men of the two countries, the question is now coming to a satisfactory settlement. The eco-

nomie co-operation between Japan and the United States in China has now passed its stage of discussion and seems to have entered into a stage of practical working. It is with great pleasure that I can refresh your memory about the following

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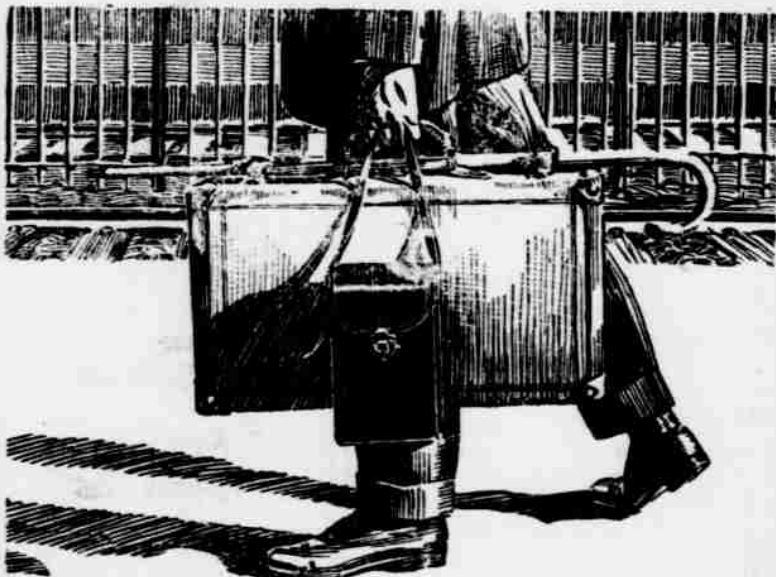
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